



## PEOPLE V. MICHAEL JOSEPH SCHULTZ [Rape, Murder]

Prosecutor: Michael K. Frawley,

Richard Simon

Investigator: Dennis Fitzgerald

On August 5, 1993, Michael Schultz, formerly a resident of Ventura, entered the Port Hueneme condominium of Cynthia Burger, where he raped Ms. Burger and strangled her to death. He then placed her body face down in a bathtub full of water, bleach, and other household chemicals, disconnected the smoke detectors in the home, and set fire to Ms. Burger's bed.

The murder went unsolved until August 2000, when a witness informed law enforcement that Schultz had solicited her help to escape from prison, where he was serving a sentence for burglary and assault on police officers. Schultz had indicated an urgent need to escape before authorities took a blood sample from him which would enable his DNA to be compared to evidence left at the scene of the rape and murder.

Schultz's DNA was compared to semen left at the scene of the crime and he was confirmed as the rapist and murderer. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office arrested Schultz in November 2000. A jury convicted Schultz and sentenced him to death.

## PEOPLE V. ADAM SARABIA

[Burglary, Auto Theft, Murder]

Prosecutor: Richard Simon

Investigators: Dan Thompson, Ed Smith,  
Dennis Peet

Victim Advocate: Linda Finnerty

On October 21, 2002, John Ramirez failed to show up for work, and the family of Joanne Wotkyns reported they had not heard from her. Santa Paula Police officers went to the couple's home and discovered the bodies of both victims in their bedroom. They



Senior Attorney Scott Hendrickson

had been savagely beaten with a blunt instrument and had received multiple stab and slash wounds. The couple's Pontiac Grand Prix was missing, as was Ms. Wotkyns's cell phone.

Adam Sarabia, 17, was seen driving around town in the Pontiac. He called numerous friends using Wotkyns's cell phone. Investigators from the DA's office went to the Sarabia family home. Investigator

Dan Thompson noticed small flecks of what appeared to be blood spatter on a sweatshirt that Sarabia was wearing. Investigator Ed Smith found a pair of shoes hidden under Sarabia's bed that had John Ramirez's blood on them. Investigator Dennis Peet found a baseball bat in the garage that had visible blood spatter which matched both victims.

Sarabia was charged as an adult and convicted of residential burglary, auto theft, and two counts of first degree murder with special circumstances. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. His age precluded seeking the death penalty.

## PEOPLE V. ROBERT ALAN COFFMAN

[Attempted Murder, Murder]

Prosecutor: Stacy Ratner

Investigator: John Bunch

On June 30, 2001, Robert Coffman went to the Ventura River bottom in Ventura. Coffman, a skinhead gang member, drank beer and smoked marijuana with several friends. They rode bikes around until they came upon the first victim, James Clark, a homeless man who frequented the area.

Coffman approached Clark and asked for a cigarette. He then stole Clark's backpack and ransacked it. He and the others then attacked Clark, kicking and stomping him. By all accounts, Coffman was the most aggressive, exacting the most damage